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 RUDKHLQ/AMEMBASSY HELSINKI 5893
 RUDKFSQ/AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM 8851
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USIA.FOR EU..P/RM; SECSTATE FOR EUR/NE (MCKEE); SECDEF
 FOR PA; STOCKHOLM PLEASE PASS TO CODEL

E.O. 12356: N/A

SUBJECT: PRESS REACTION: CODEL HUTTO

1. THE BRIEF, INFORMAL PRESS ENCOUNTER WITH CODEL HUTTO AND DANISH MINISTER OF DEFENSE HANS ENGELL WAS WIDELY REPORTED IN THE DANISH MEDIA AUGUST 25. ARTICLES LED WITH HUTTO'S EXPRESSION OF "DISAPPOINTMENT" OVER DENMARK'S CURRENT INABILITY TO MAKE A STRONGER ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTION TO NATO DEFENSE COSTS. EXCERPTS FOLLOW.

2. UNDER THE HEADLINE "DENMARK DISAPPOINTS -- U.S. DEFENSE COMMITTEE ON OUR CONTRIBUTION TO NATO," "POLITIKEN" (LEFT OF CENTER) WROTE: "SEVEN MEMBERS OF THE AMERICAN CONGRESS' DEFENSE COMMITTEE EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT YESTERDAY TO MINISTER OF DEFENSE HANS ENGELL OVER WHAT THEY PERCEIVED TO BE DENMARK'S TOO ECONOMICALLY MODEST CONTRIBUTION TO NATO DEFENSE.

3. "IT WAS DONE POLITELY, BUT IN SUCH A WAY THAT THE MESSAGE COULD NOT BE MISUNDERSTOOD....

4. "AT AN INFORMAL PRESS CONFERENCE, THE SPOKESMAN FOR THE DELEGATION, DEMOCRAT EARL HUTTO, SAID THAT DENMARK OUGHT TO BE ABLE TO PAY WHAT IS NECESSARY FOR DEFENSE, ESPECIALLY BECAUSE OF OUR HIGH INCOME AND PROXIMITY TO THE WARSAW PACT COUNTRIES.

5. "HIS REPUBLICAN COLLEAGUE, G. WILLIAM WHITEHURST, EMPHASIZED THE REAGAN GOVERNMENT'S DESIRE TO CONTINUE DISARMAMENT NEGOTIATIONS, 'BUT THERE HAS TO BE TWO PARTIES TO A NEGOTIATION, SO IT IS A PREREQUISITE THAT THE SOVIET UNION BE READY TO RESUME THE DISCUSSIONS,' HE ADDED.

6. "HANS ENGELL LET IT BE KNOWN THAT THERE HAD NOT BEEN TALKS ABOUT ACTUAL NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE AMERICANS, BUT THAT THE MAIN TOPICS OF THE MEETINGS HAD BEEN THE DANISH DEFENSE AGREEMENT AND THE QUESTION OF NATO BURDEN-SHARING."

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7. "BERLINGSKE TIDENDE" (CONSERVATIVE) CORRESPONDENT MICHAEL EHRENREICH STATED: "...THE AMERICAN POLITICIANS EXPRESSED THEIR HOPE THAT DANISH DEFENSE SPENDING IN THE FUTURE WOULD INCREASE CONSIDERABLY COMPARED TO THE ONLY TWO-MONTHS-OLD DANISH DEFENSE AGREEMENT.

8. "'WE ARE OF COURSE DISAPPOINTED BECAUSE OF THE SMALL INCREASES IN SEVERAL OF THE ALLIES' DEFENSE SPENDING. AND WE HOPE THE DANES VIA THEIR ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES WILL ENCOURAGE THEM TO PAY THEIR SHARE OF THE MUTUAL BURDEN,' SAID THE LEADER OF THE SEVEN MAN DELEGATION FROM THE AMERICAN DEFENSE COMMITTEE, DEMOCRAT EARL HUTTO, AFTER THE CONSULTATIONS....

9. "MINISTER OF DEFENSE HANS ENGELL BRIEFED THE AMERICAN POLITICIANS ABOUT THE NEW DANISH DEFENSE AGREEMENT AND GAVE AN OUTLINE OF THE COMBINED DANISH DEFENSE. 'THERE HAS BEEN, BOTH IN THE U.S. AND ELSEWHERE, SOME MISUNDERSTANDINGS ABOUT THE DEFENSE AGREEMENT AND WE SEE THESE TALKS AS AN IMPORTANT OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS THE AGREEMENT AND BRIEF THEM ABOUT WHAT IT ACTUALLY INVOLVES,' SAID HANS ENGELL YESTERDAY.

10. "'WE MUST INSIST THAT WE, FROM A DANISH POINT OF VIEW, EXTEND A VALUABLE AND STABLE CONTRIBUTION TO THE MUTUAL DEFENSE AND AT THE TALKS WE HAVE ESPECIALLY FOCUSED ON THE HOME GUARD WHICH, WITH ITS 77,000 MEMBERS, CONTRIBUTES IN A VERY VALUABLE WAY TO THE DANISH DEFENSE AT NO MORE THAN 3,5 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL DEFENSE BUDGET,' THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE SAID."KALLAS
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